

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1     1.     A method comprising:  
2                 determining if a user has access to a data source; and  
3                 in response to the user being denied access to the data source, identifying one  
4                 or more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.
- 1     2.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                 maintaining a datastore that defines the authorizations possessed by one or  
3                 more users.
- 1     3.     The method of claim 1 wherein access to the data source is granted if a user processes  
2                 a specific authorization.
- 1     4.     The method of claim 2 wherein determining if a user has access includes:  
2                 accessing a datastore record to obtain a list of authorizations possessed by the  
3                 user.
- 1     5.     The method of claim 4 wherein determining if a user has access further includes:  
2                 comparing the list of authorizations possessed by the user to the specific  
3                 authorization required to access the data source;  
4                 wherein the user is denied access to the data source if the list of authorizations  
5                 possessed by the user does not include the specific authorization required to access  
6                 the data source.
- 1     6.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                 maintaining a datastore that defines a plurality of data source packages,  
3                 wherein each data source package includes one or more authorizations for data  
4                 sources.
- 1     7.     The method of claim 1 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:  
2                 determining which of a plurality of data source packages includes a specific  
3                 authorization required to access the data source, thus generating a list of upgrade  
4                 packages.

- 1     8.     The method of claim 7 wherein the list of upgrade packages includes one or more  
2     discrete data source packages.
- 1     9.     The method of claim 7 wherein the list of upgrade packages includes one or more  
2     premium data source packages.
- 1     10.    The method of claim 7 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:  
2                    determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages.
- 1     11.    The method of claim 10 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:  
2                    sorting the list of upgrade packages based on the upgrade cost associated with  
3                    each of the upgrade packages.
- 1     12.    The method of claim 10 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:  
2                    sorting the list of upgrade packages based on a profit margin associated with  
3                    each of the upgrade packages.
- 1     13.    The method of claim 10 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:  
2                    sorting the list of upgrade packages based on an predetermined marketing  
3                    preference.
- 1     14.    The method of claim 10 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade  
2     packages includes:  
3                    determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package; and  
4                    discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of  
5                    authorizations possessed by the user.
- 1     15.    The method of claim 10 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade  
2     packages includes:  
3                    determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package; and  
4                    discounting the undiscounted cost based on a promotional discount.

1     16.     The method of claim 10 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade  
2     packages includes determining which of the upgrade packages requires one or more  
3     prerequisite data source packages.

1     17.     The method of claim 16 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade  
2     packages includes:

3             determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package that requires one or  
4             more prerequisite data source packages;

5             increasing the undiscounted cost based on a cost associated with the one or  
6             more prerequisite data source packages; and

7             discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of  
8             authorizations possessed by the user.

1     18.     A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a  
2     plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that  
3     processor to:

4             determine if a user has access to a data source; and

5             in response to the user being denied access to the data source, identify one or  
6             more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.

1     19.     The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising instructions for:  
2             maintaining a datastore that defines the authorizations possessed by one or  
3             more users.

1     20.     The computer program product of claim 18 wherein access to the data source is.  
2     granted if a user processes a specific authorization.

1     21.     The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions for determining  
2     if a user has access include instructions for:

3             accessing a datastore record to obtain a list of authorizations possessed by the  
4             user.

- 1     22.     The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the instructions for determining  
2     if a user has access further include instructions for:  
3                 comparing the list of authorizations possessed by the user to the specific  
4                 authorization required to access the data source;  
5                 wherein the user is denied access to the data source if the list of authorizations  
6                 possessed by the user does not include the specific authorization required to access  
7                 the data source.
- 1     23.     The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising instructions for:  
2                 maintaining a datastore that defines a plurality of data source packages,  
3                 wherein each data source package includes one or more authorizations for data  
4                 sources.
- 1     24.     The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the instructions for identifying  
2     one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 determining which of a plurality of data source packages includes a specific  
4                 authorization required to access the data source, thus generating a list of upgrade  
5                 packages.
- 1     25.     The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the list of upgrade packages  
2     includes one or more discrete data source packages.
- 1     26.     The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the list of upgrade packages  
2     includes one or more premium data source packages.
- 1     27.     The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for identifying  
2     one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages.
- 1     28.     The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for identifying  
2     one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on the upgrade cost associated with  
4                 each of the upgrade package.

1     29.     The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for identifying  
2     one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on a profit margin associated with  
4                 each of the upgrades.

1     30.     The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for identifying  
2     one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on an predetermined marketing  
4                 preference.

1     31.     The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for determining  
2     an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 determining an undiscounted cost for a upgrade package; and  
4                 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of  
5                 authorizations possessed by the user.

1     32.     The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for determining  
2     an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 determining an undiscounted cost for a upgrade package; and  
4                 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a promotional discount.

1     33.     The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for determining  
2     an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 determining which of the upgrade packages requires one or more prerequisite  
4                 data source packages.

1     34.     The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the instructions for determining  
2     an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:  
3                 determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package that requires one or  
4                 more prerequisite data source packages;  
5                 increasing the undiscounted cost based on a cost associated with the one or  
6                 more prerequisite data source packages; and

7                    discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of  
8                    authorizations possessed by the user.

1        35.        A method comprising:  
2                    determining if a user has access to a data source; and  
3                    in response to the user not having access to the data source, identifying one or  
4                    more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.

1        36.        A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a  
2                    plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that  
3                    processor to:  
4                    determine if a user has access to a data source; and  
5                    in response to the user not having access to the data source, identify one or  
6                    more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.